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UA12/2/1 Fall Sports Preview

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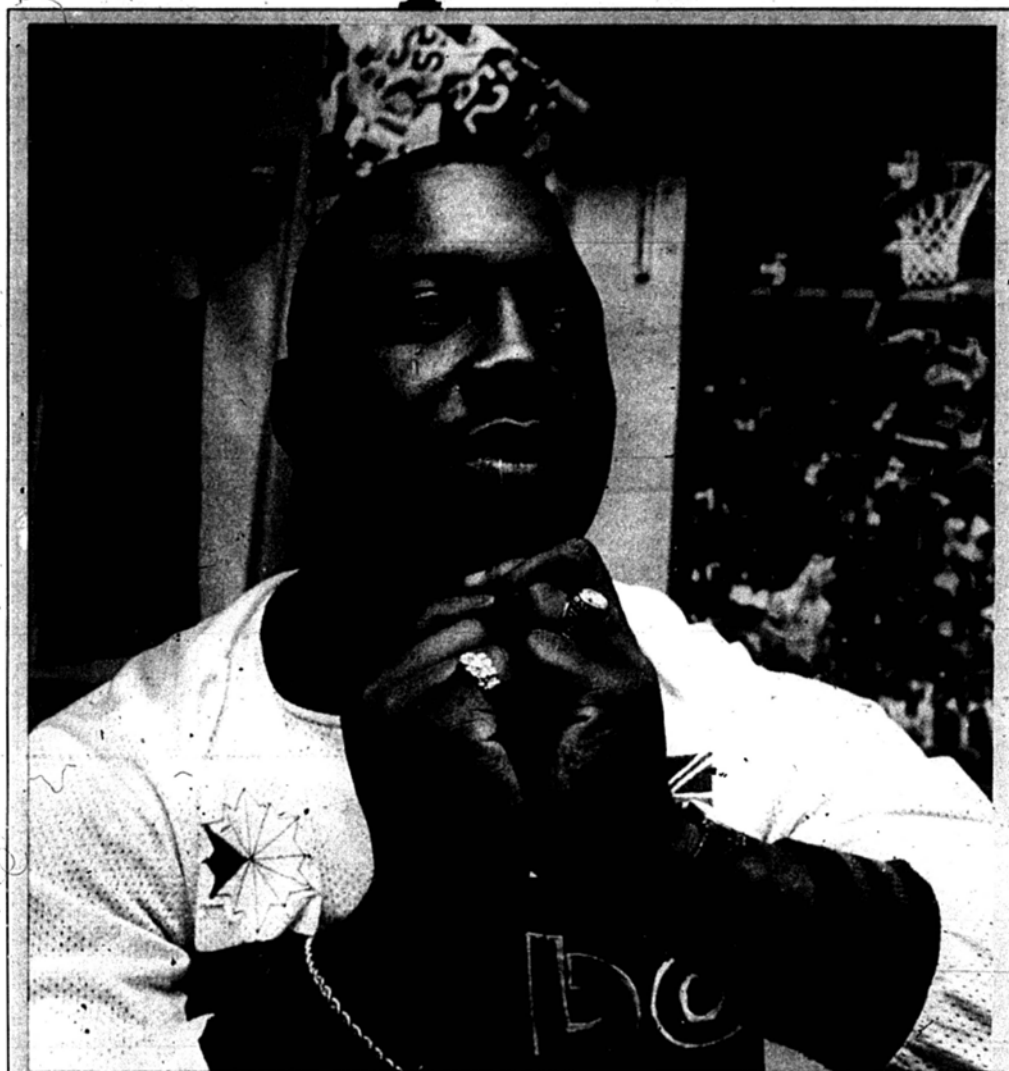
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Fall Sports Preview



Senior tailback Joe Arnold has high aspirations for the upcoming football season.

Amy Deputy/Herald

No ordinary Joe

Senior tailback comes of age on, off field

By TOM HERMES

Sitting in the locker room after his second preseason scrimmage, Western tailback Joe Arnold dreads the thought of struggling to take off his bulky equipment.

"Getting undressed is definitely the worst part of practice," Arnold says, as he rips strands of tape off the ankle he injured while playing basketball with his nephew this summer.

In two weeks, the 5-11, 194-pound senior from Decatur, Ga., will begin his final season as a Hilltopper. He wants it to be his best.

"I want 1,000 yards rushing," said Arnold, who has never broken the 1,000-yard barrier. He has come close though. He gained 999 yards and 987 yards in his junior and senior years of high school. "I've got to get it done.

"But if I do, I wouldn't credit myself." Such is the character of Arnold.

In his first three seasons on the Hill, he gained 1,902 yards. Those credentials will make him a main cog in the offensive scheme this season.

Despite his success on the field, Arnold said he tries to maintain a low profile off it.

"A lot of people at this school know Joe Arnold on the football field, but when I walk down the street now, I bet half of the people don't recognize me. But I like it that way."

Having showered and conferred with teammates, Arnold slowly dresses in a gray Western spring practice T-shirt, blue shorts, Reebok running shoes and an Atlanta Braves' baseball cap.

"It's not for the Braves," Arnold explains, "the A stands for Arnold, Atlanta and

awesome."

The hat only signifies a small portion of the Arnold who considered himself outgoing as a freshman.

"When I first got here, I was like many typical freshmen, you know, being on my own for the first time and thinking I was bad being a football player," Arnold said. "But now, as I have realized there is life after college, I have grown up being more responsible."

As a 169-pound freshman, Arnold was listed sixth on the running back depth chart. And like most newcomers, he had typical freshman blues.

Those were remedied by calls to his mother, Judy Arnold, three times a week. The calls amounted to over \$200 in bills the first month

INSIDE

FOOTBALL — Despite losing several key players, Coach Dave Roberts hopes his team will continue the success it experienced last year. Page 12.

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SOCCER — Gaining experience against a tough schedule poses the greatest obstacle for Coach David Holmes' team as it seeks its fourth straight winning season. Page 15.

VOLLEYBALL — Coach Charlie Daniel's team lacks senior experience, which may hamper his team's success. Page 15.

WOMEN'S TENNIS — Balance will be the main strength of Coach Ray Rose's team. Page 15.

Restocking key positions critical to team's success

By TOM HERNES

Coach Dave Roberts' rebuilding project finally showed positive results last season.

Now, the fifth-year coach hopes those results will continue.

In 1987, during Roberts' tenure, the H. Toppers climbed to the top of the state rankings in the 115, 130, 150, 175, 190, 215, 235, 255, 275, 295, 315, 335, 355, 375, 395, 415, 435, 455, 475, 495, 515, 535, 555, 575, 595, 615, 635, 655, 675, 695, 715, 735, 755, 775, 795, 815, 835, 855, 875, 895, 915, 935, 955, 975, 995, 1015, 1035, 1055, 1075, 1095, 1115, 1135, 1155, 1175, 1195, 1215, 1235, 1255, 1275, 1295, 1315, 1335, 1355, 1375, 1395, 1415, 1435, 1455, 1475, 1495, 1515, 1535, 1555, 1575, 1595, 1615, 1635, 1655, 1675, 1695, 1715, 1735, 1755, 1775, 1795, 1815, 1835, 1855, 1875, 1895, 1915, 1935, 1955, 1975, 1995, 2015, 2035, 2055, 2075, 2095, 2115, 2135, 2155, 2175, 2195, 2215, 2235, 2255, 2275, 2295, 2315, 2335, 2355, 2375, 2395, 2415, 2435, 2455, 2475, 2495, 2515, 2535, 2555, 2575, 2595, 2615, 2635, 2655, 2675, 2695, 2715, 2735, 2755, 2775, 2795, 2815, 2835, 2855, 2875, 2895, 2915, 2935, 2955, 2975, 2995, 3015, 3035, 3055, 3075, 3095, 3115, 3135, 3155, 3175, 3195, 3215, 3235, 3255, 3275, 3295, 3315, 3335, 3355, 3375, 3395, 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Arnold not depending on NFL

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of school.

"My mom keeps me going," said Arnold, whose parents were divorced when he was 7 years old. "She provided me with everything I needed as a kid, and she never missed one of my high school football games and none of my home games at Western."

But homesickness didn't cause Arnold to have second thoughts about choosing or staying at Western.

"I was recruited by many large schools as a wide receiver and defensive back," Arnold said. The schools included Wisconsin, Purdue and the University of Georgia.

"But I like coming out of the backfield better."

Arnold helped himself as a freshman by recording the Toppers' longest run from scrimmage that season — a 57-yard touchdown against Central Florida.

"People like Joe don't come along very often," Coach Dave Roberts said. "He is definitely one of the top five individuals I have ever coached. He is a sensational person on and off the field, is a great team leader and has great work habits."

Relationships with teammates helped Arnold adjust to Western, he said. Those relationships will last longer

than his playing days.

"He shows leadership off the playing field," said defensive back Ron Burroughs, an Owensboro senior who roomed with Arnold this summer. "All the younger guys on the team look up to him as a team leader."

Arnold "is one of the finest guys I've played with," said linebacker Wayne Bush, a Scottsville senior. "He is a great talent, and he handles himself well off the field."

But after leading the Toppers in rushing with 721 yards and 290 yards with 37 receptions his sophomore year, Arnold still faced the reality of decreased playing time because of the arrivals of transfer running backs David Smith and Tony Brown.

"Tony and Smitty are two good backs, but they are powerful straight ahead runners, while I have something different to offer being both a North-South and East-West runner," Arnold said.

When Smith and Brown were injured in the middle of last season, Arnold took control of the backfield duties and finished with 901 yards rushing and eight touchdowns to earn the team's Offensive Player of the Year Award.

Staying in shape has helped Arnold avoid major injuries. Although he didn't start lifting weights until college, Arnold can bench press 360 pounds and squat 475 pounds.

But he doesn't let his conditioning

get in the way of his love for soap operas and reggae music.

"All My Children" and "General Hospital" are my favorites," Arnold said.

"I like listening to this kind of music to relax after a hard day of practice," he said as a UB-40 tape played in the background.

The Omega Psi Phi fraternity also offers him a chance to relax.

"When I came to college, one of the things I always wanted to do is join a fraternity, and I finally did it," Arnold said. He was initiated into the fraternity this past summer.

"Joe will make it in whatever he does," said tight end Doug Jones, also a member of the fraternity. "He will be the best all-purpose running back around and should have no trouble getting All-American."

But reaching All-American status isn't first on Arnold's list of goals.

"I just want to have a winning season, be happy when I leave, and know I accomplished something," he said.

Although Arnold hopes for a call from the National Football League this spring, he plans to put his psychology degree, which he expects to get next spring of summer, to good use.

"Whatever I do after I leave, I'll be successful," Arnold said. "I want to play in the NFL. But if I don't, I won't be disappointed."

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JUST THE FACTS

Baseball tryouts scheduled for Sept. 6

Baseball coach Joel Murrie will have tryouts Sept. 6 at 3 p.m. in Diddle Arena. The tryouts will be held in Room 119 and anyone interested is asked to attend.

UCB, Food Services cookout tonight

A "Welcome Back Rec-Out" tonight on the south lawn of the university center will give students a chance to eat, dance and mingle.

The event had been scheduled for last week but was rained out. National Lampoon's Animal House will be shown on a large screen after dark.

The event is sponsored by campus recreation, University Center Board and Food Services and runs from 5 to 8 p.m.

Music will be provided by WBLG 107 FM radio station.

Activities will include volleyball, horseshoes and Frisbee. Barbecue ribs, baked beans, potato salad, chips and a soft drink will be served for \$2.99.

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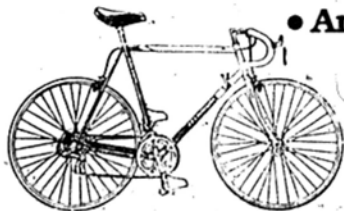
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Head sees brighter days ahead

Outlook good after disappointing year

By ANDY DENNIS

Coach Norman Head is optimistic about the 1988-89 version of the men's golf team.

"The outlook is good," Head said. "Last year was a down year for us."

MEN'S GOLF

Team captain Richard Lennox, a junior from Hamilton, Ontario, will lead the team this season.

"Day in and day out, Richard Lennox is probably our top player," Head said. "Our first five are pretty even."

Head said he also expects solid play from Eric Hogge, who came to Western as a freshman walk-on last year from Louisville. Hogge had the lowest average last fall at 76.2.

Jeff Guest will be another solid performer, he said. The LaGrange junior had a low round of 73 last fall at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Tournament.

"The top five players compete in tournaments. The four best scores from the five comprise the team's score."

The Toppers recruited freshmen Ron Poore and Ed Luxom for this season, Head said. Poore, from Terre Haute, Ind., was the third ranked junior (17 and under) in Indiana last year.

Luxom, of Richmond, has been ranked in Kentucky's top 10 for the last two years.

Western's first tournament is Sept. 22-24 at the Johnny Bench Invitational in Cincinnati.



Amy Deputy/Herald

While supporting each other on Tuesday on a green at the Bowling Green Country Club, Jeff Guest (kneeling), a senior from Owensboro, Matt Fender, a sophomore from Mount Pleasant, Mich., and Eric Hogge, a Louisville sophomore, sign NCAA athletic statements.

4 returning seniors lead team

By ANDY DENNIS

Coach Kathy Teichert expects experience to play a key factor in the team's success this season.

Last fall, inexperience caused the team to struggle through a disappointing 30-34 record. But with everyone returning from last year's team, Teichert anticipates better results this year.

"The seniors should take leadership roles and be consistent throughout the season," Teichert said.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Keying the team will be four seniors headed by Suzanne Noblett of Newburgh, Ind. Noblett led the team in scoring last season.

Also expected to contribute are seniors Lori Oldendick, from Florence, Kim Rogers of Elizabethtown and Marci Butler of St. Louis.

Teichert said the most improved player may be Joi Thomas, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., along with Bowling Green freshman Leslie Gary who is also fighting for a top five players on the roster. The top five players compete in the tournaments.

"Realistically, nine or 10 probably have a shot of making the final five," Teichert said, "but the lineup may change week in and week out."



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Holmes fields green squad

By DOUG TATUM

Hilltopper coach David Holmes inherited a losing program and turned it into a competitive one in four years.

But he wants to accomplish something else in his fifth year — a spot in the final four of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

His team is young, with 10 freshmen and one transfer student joining the squad.

The team is "as green as we'd like the grass to be around here," Holmes said. "It's going to be a season of youth and question marks, and the answers won't be known until we play some games."

To reach the final four, the Toppers must replace six starters from the team that finished with a record of 13-5-2 last season.

Holmes said the team will miss the leadership and ball-winning ability of fullback Todd Rich and the scoring of striker Louis Lanton, the 16th leading scorer in NCAA Division I soccer last season.

Holmes must also replace starters John Hannon, Bruce Eisert, Morton Jensen and Eduardo Allegre.

And this green team must survive a schedule that is "by far the most challenging they've played."

Youthful optimism buoys Tops

By MARK CHANDLER

As Western begins its 1987-88 campaign, team members are full of optimism — and youth.

The Toppers return only one senior from last year's team and have added six freshmen. But Coach Charlie Daniel believes this year could turn out to be his best ever if the team works hard and avoids injuries.

"I'm real optimistic," Daniel said. "We have a lot of young talent, and I think we have a lot of potential."

Daniel said he thinks the grueling hours the team put in during the summer will pay off when it starts its season at the University of Louisville tomorrow night.

"We've worked on our strength, our overall play and our team speed," Daniel said. "Our strength has improved so much over last season."

He said his team has practically lived in the weight room since practice started Aug. 15.

Senior Dedre Nelson agreed.

"Most of us worked out on our own this summer," Nelson said. "I got together with my roommate (team-

SOCCER

Evansville, Southern Illinois at Edwardsville and conference rivals South Florida, South Alabama and the University of Alabama are among the bigger competitors.

Traditional rivals Kentucky Wesleyan, Vanderbilt and Louisville are also on the schedule that has only two Division II schools.

Two seniors Holmes will count on to lead the team are Lanny Hall and Chris Greco, both are midfielders and co-captains. Joining them on the midfield-line are freshmen Paul Newton and Andy Deimling.

He also expects goalkeeper Lee Walton, fullback Mike Irbly and striker Pat Dilts to see a lot of playing time.

The coach and the co-captains have been happy with the team's attitude and the way that preseason practice has gone.

"Preseason practice has been great. It's the best preseason I've been involved in," Hall said.

"The guys are really enthusiastic, and they are forming quite a cohesive unit," Holmes added.

Walton said this team is closer on

and off the field than any team he has played on.

Greco said it is the job of the captains to lead the team on the field and to help team members off the field.

On the field, the Toppers will be playing their traditional 4-4-2 formation, with four fullbacks, four midfielders and two strikers. Holmes said that they might alter it slightly as the season progresses.

"We've got to start from the back. All the top teams are very solid in the back. Teams that defend well are always going to be successful," Holmes said.

Hall said this year's style of play will differ from the way they played last year.

"Last year we played pure defense and relied on one striker to get goals," Hall said. "This year we will be much more well-rounded. We will build up our attack from the back and have better ball control. We won't just have to keep the ball out of the net."

The Toppers open Saturday in Charlotte against Davidson. Western meets North Carolina Charlotte on Sunday. The home opener will be Sept. 8 against Vanderbilt.

VOLLEYBALL

mate Ginger Marx), and we lifted weights and did a lot of running."

Daniel is counting on the strength training and conditioning to keep his team healthy and injury free this year.

"I really think all of our players will get a chance to play this year," Daniel said. "And we're going to need everyone. When you only have 13 players, you need all of them to be ready to play because you never know when someone might go down with an injury."

The Toppers had their share of injuries last year, losing three of their top players to ankle and leg injuries.

Sophomore Rachel Allendar has bounced back from an ankle injury, and Daniel expects her playing to improve. She was most valuable player in two of the team's tournaments.

Daniel is looking toward Nelson, a second-team All-Sun Belt Conference performer last year, to provide Western with leadership and help the younger players during the season.

Rose banking on balanced attack

By DOUG TATUM

Women's tennis coach Ray Rose is counting on his team's balance to carry them through the year.

"The six girls on scholarship are all very close in ability," Rose said. "We don't have any outstanding girl."

Meanwhile, men's coach Jeff True will open his eighth season at Western in February, hoping to improve on last year's seventh place-Sun Belt Conference Tournament finish.

The women's team has four returning scholarship players and two incoming freshmen on the squad. On Sept. 1, there will be an open tryout at 3 p.m. at the campus courts, to determine the remaining two spots on the team.

TENNIS

The Toppers lost only one player from last year's team, Julie Ross of Terre Haute, Ind. Ross played numbers one, two and three singles during her four years at Western.

Returning scholarship players for the Toppers are sophomores Julie Bowen, from Olney, Ill., Kelly Haskins, from Murray, Amy Lance, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Patricia Mahon, from Henderson.

The freshman on scholarship are Wendy Gunter, of Shepherdsville, and Ellen Hogancamp, of Murray.

Rose doesn't think that not having one dominant player will hurt his team.

"The way college tennis is scored, each match counts for one point," Rose said. "So it doesn't matter whether we get it from our number one player or our number six."

The Toppers open the season with a tournament at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro on Sept. 23. Rose said that the team will play eight or nine matches and two tournaments in the fall.

He feels that Murray State, Austin Peay and Louisville will be some of the tougher teams Western will face.

The rest of the schedule is not set, but Rose said they plan to play two or three matches at Western.

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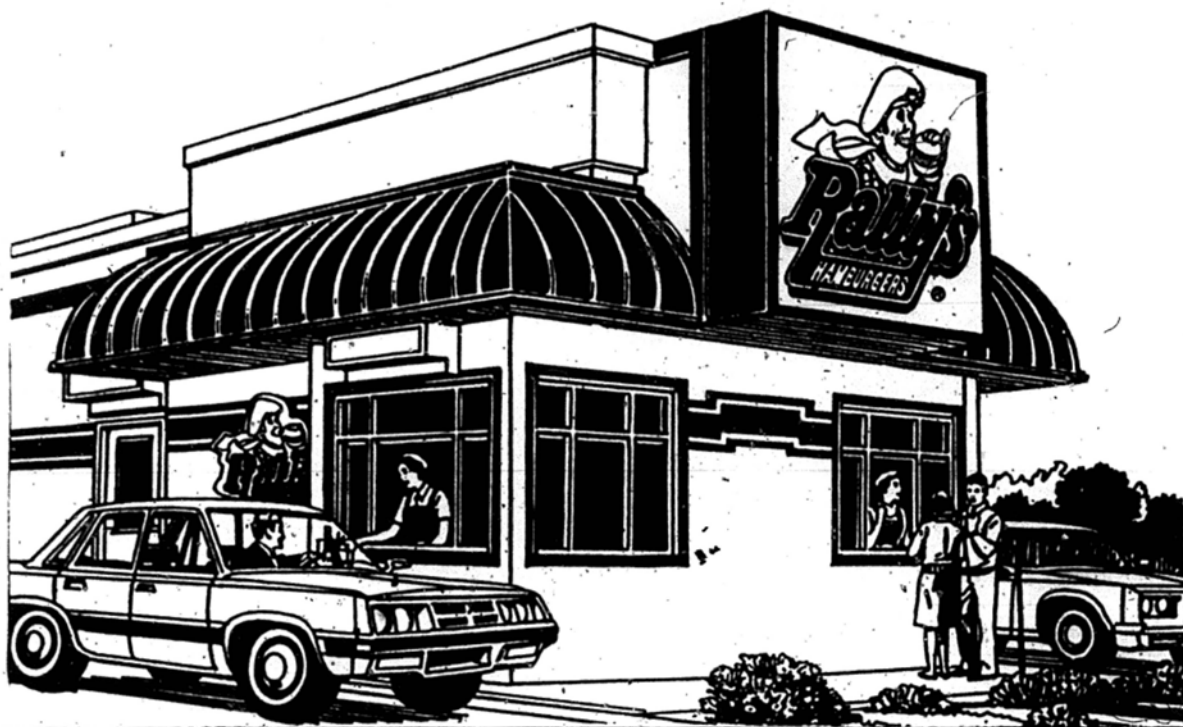
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